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Socio-Economic and Environmental Significance of the Use and Protection of Agricultural Land

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Abstract:

This article discusses the social, economic and environmental significance of the use and protection of agricultural land in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The main role of agricultural land in Uzbekistan is shown. The description of the state of agricultural land is given. The analysis of the current legislation is carried out.

Keywords: land, natural resources, agricultural land.

In Uzbekistan, the protection of agricultural land is one of the important socio-economic and political tasks of society. The material well-being of society, its existence and the fate of future generations depend on careful attitude to the land, which is an invaluable resource of nature. For this reason, the rational use of land resources and their protection is not only of ecological, but also of socio-economic importance.

According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", due to the intensive development of agriculture on a scientific basis, the incomes of farmers and farmers should be increased by at least 2 times. , the annual growth of agriculture should be at least 5%, the volume of state support for agriculture, the introduction of new expansion and insurance mechanisms, as well as issues of improving fertility and soil protection are determined[1].

In the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On approval of the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030", only 20.7% of the 20.2 million hectares of land intended for agriculture are considered irrigated, and over the past 15 years, irrigated land per capita population increased by 24% (from 0.23 ha to 0.16 ha) and this situation is caused by population growth, reduced water supply and the transfer of agricultural land to other categories of the land fund.

Uzbekistan is a country with extremely limited land resources and a rapidly growing population. The rate of population growth is much higher than the increase in the area of irrigated land. 8 people per hectare of irrigated land. The total area of arable land is 17.8 million hectares, and according to the forecasts of the Asian Development Bank, the amount of irrigated land will decrease by 20-25% in the next 30 years. It should be noted that the rapid expansion of cultivated land occurs from 1970 to 1985. During this period, the area of irrigated land in the republic increased from 2.8 to 4.0 million hectares or increased by 43%. On the one hand, the full development of new lands led to the full use of available water resources, as was demonstrated by the example of the Aral Sea, and on the other hand, it made it possible to alleviate the demographic burden on the economy. and facilitate the solution of food and other issues.

As Professor J. T. Khalmuminov noted, "Land and land resources have a special feature among natural resources, and the economic power of any country is associated with land resources. The rational use of land resources is at the heart of the life, lifestyle, activities and well-being of our people[2].

As M.R. admitted Mirzaabdullayeva, "Among the natural resources, land stands out in terms of its characteristics. It ensures the well-being of the population of our country, creates the material basis for the economic prosperity of our republic. Therefore, the proper organization of land use in a rational, efficient and scientifically sound manner in any period and under any conditions is extremely important for the present and future of the country [3].

It is known that Uzbekistan is one of the countries with a high population level. Uzbekistan ranks third in terms of population among the CIS countries after Russia and Ukraine. More than 1/3 of the entire population of Central Asia lives here. At present, the population of Uzbekistan is more than 35.6 million people. According to the State Statistics Committee, as of July 1, 2022, the number of urban residents reached 18.1 million people, and rural - 17.5 million people. Thus, the number of people living in villages is 49% of the population of the republic. 40% of the working population is employed in agriculture.

The total area of land in the administrative territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan is 44,892.4 thousand hectares. As of January 1, 2022, agricultural enterprises and other organizations and citizens operating in the republic have 27,148.5 thousand hectares of land, 22,116.1 thousand hectares of agricultural land, and 3,694.9 thousand hectares of irrigated land [4].

Among the existing categories of land in the Republic of Uzbekistan, agricultural land is given a great advantage both in terms of territory and significance. As of January 1, 2022, agricultural land in the Republic of Uzbekistan occupies 60.48 percent of the total area and is in constant use [5].

Of course, under such conditions, the efficient use of land resources based on the recommendations of science, the general laws of nature and their proper protection, without a doubt, is one of the tasks of the first level of the modern era. In this case, the legal protection of land resources will be of great importance. Since the relevant legal norms regulate relations related to the use and protection of lands, they determine measures for their rational use and protection from various illegal actions.

Issues of the state of land resources and their rational use remain relevant at the national and global levels. Despite the measures taken, the process of land degradation is intensifying, and land resources suitable for agricultural use are declining.

It is worth saying that it is impossible to reasonably use the land and protect it without the help of the law. The laws on land use and protection of lands, adopted in recent years in our country, establish the requirements for careful attitude to land resources, their preservation, constant improvement of soil fertility and measures to fulfill these requirements. In particular, Article 55 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states that "Land, subsoil, water, flora and fauna and other natural resources are national property and are under state protection." From the foregoing, it can be seen that the development of the legal foundations of social relations related to the protection of land is important for the whole society and for each person [6].

If we take into account that land resources are the main object of agricultural production, we can see that their rational use is not only social and environmental, but also economic [7].

At the same time, the growing needs of the population in agricultural products, an increase in the cultivation of such products will depend on the quality and quantity of land used. This situation creates a great demand for land as a factor of production. The economic reforms carried out in the field of agriculture in Uzbekistan are aimed at creating an effective system of ownership in this area.

The earth, unlike other resources of nature, requires a reasonable attitude towards it, constant cultivation and care to create its fertile and restorative properties. To do this, the subjects of land relations should be guided by the relevant rules in this regard.

According to M.M. Brinchuk "The earth plays an important ecological, economic and political role in the life of any person and society. Land is an element of the state territory, the border of sovereign power. As an object of universal human labor, as the main means of production in agriculture and forestry, the land exists without any effects manifested by it as an object of human economic activity. The land is also used as an operational base and foundation for the development of cities and other settlements, the network of the national economy [8].

In our opinion, the land is the object of human economic activity, the base for the placement of industrial and production facilities, the main means of production in agriculture.

At present, in the context of fundamental reforms in the field of agriculture, our state pays special attention to the problem of protecting the natural environment, including land. In particular, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of October 23, 2019 "On approval of the Strategy for the Development of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030", the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of October 30, 2019 "On the approval of the Concept of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030" Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 7, 2020 No. PF-6061 "On measures to radically improve the system of maintaining land records and state cadastres", Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to improve the system for the use and protection of agricultural land" and a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers Republic of Uzbekistan is aimed at regulating relations related to agricultural land.

The importance of protecting agricultural land is explained by the fact that the area of irrigated land per capita is decreasing from year to year due to rapid population growth. Random use of agricultural land, non-compliance with crop rotation, unscientific use of land, non-compliance with agrotechnical rules for tillage, the use of pesticides in large quantities leads to a decrease in soil fertility. According to experts, the precious quality of the soil can be easily destroyed. The process of its restoration is very complicated and takes a lot of time. For example, it takes about 100 years to restore a fertile soil layer 10 centimeters thick. Based on this, land legislation defines stringent requirements and measures aimed at protecting the fertile soil layer [9].

"According to experts, 15 percent of agricultural crops are lost due to poor land reclamation. "Today, lands with a worsened reclamation state to one degree or another amount to 406.8 thousand hectares or 10.5% of the total amount of irrigated lands" [10].

Based on the above, we can express the following:

- state support for measures aimed at increasing the productivity of agricultural land;
- introduce a transparent system for allocating agricultural land;
- it is necessary to carefully examine agricultural land annually;
- development of a roadmap to prevent damage to agricultural land from climate change;

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- further development of the cadastral system of agricultural land;
- improve and apply the mechanism of economic incentives for the use and protection of agricultural land.

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